IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method for producing a visual display of a panoramic region from a set of temporally sequential frames of visual data, each frame of visual data representing an image defining a region within the panoramic region such that at least two of the images define regions that do not coincide, the method comprising the steps of:

displaying a series of active images generated from multiple temporally sequential frames of visual data, such that the series of active images comprise a moving video image of at least those portions of successive frames of visual data that overlap;

positioning each displayed image on a display screen with respect to the position of other displayed images on the display screen in accordance with the spatial relationship in the panoramic region of the content of the displayed image to the content of the other displayed images; and

displaying one or more context images while said series of active images is displayed, each context image being at least part of an image represented by a previously displayed frame of the set of temporally sequential frames of visual data, said frame no longer corresponding to an active image such that the context image is displayed as a static image;

whereby the one or more context images are displayed statically to provide a context display for the series of active images displayed as a moving video image and an active display including the series of active images.

2. (Original) A method as in Claim 1, wherein the step of displaying one or more context images further comprises automatically displaying one or more context images further comprises automatically displaying one or more context images in a predetermined manner.

3. (Original) A method as in Claim 2, wherein each context image is at least part of an active image displayed prior to the display of a current active image.

4. (Original) A method as in Claim 3, wherein the step of displaying one or more context images further comprises displaying each image displayed after a first display of a context image.

5. (Original) A method as in Claim 1, wherein the step of displaying one or more context images further comprises displaying an image designated by a user as a context image.

6. (Original) A method as in Claim 5, wherein the step of displaying one or more context images further comprises displaying a previously displayed image designated by a user as a context image.

7. (Original) A method as in Claim 5, further comprising the step of designating an image as a context image I accordance with user instruction.

8. (Original) A method as in Claim 7, wherein the step of designating further comprises designating an image as a context image at the time that the image is displayed as an active image.

9. (Original) A method as in Claim 5, further comprising the step of moving the location of a context image on the display screen in accordance with user instruction.

10. (Original) A method as in Claim 1, wherein one or more of the context images is designated as a clip image.

11. (Original) A method as in Claim 10, further comprising the step of designating a context image as a clip image in accordance with user instruction.

12. (Original) A method as in Claim 10, further comprising the step of selecting a clip image, wherein selection of a clip image causes the step of generating an active image to begin with the selected clip image.

13. (Original) A method as in Claim 1, wherein the visual display can be generated from a plurality of sets of temporally sequential frames of visual data, each frame of visual data within a set of frames of visual data representing an image defining a region within a corresponding panoramic region such that at least two of the images define regions in that panoramic region that do not coincide, at least one branch point being defined in each set of frames of visual data, the method further comprising the steps of:

identifying a branch point in a set of frames of visual data from which active images are being displayed.

when a branch point is identified, determining whether to display images generated from a new set of frames of visual data;

if images are to be generated from a new set of frames of visual data, identifying a new set of frames of visual data and the frame within the new set of frames of visual data with which to begin the display of active images; and

generating a display of an active image from each of multiple temporally sequential frames of visual data in the new set of frames of visual data.

14. (Original) A method as in Claim 1, wherein content of a context image that overlaps content of an earlier context image replaces the content of the earlier context image.

15. (Original) A method as in Claim 1, wherein the set of temporally sequential frames of visual data is obtained by a visual data acquisition device rotatably mounted at a fixed location.

16. (Original) A method as in Claim 1, wherein the frames of visual data are prerecorded.

17. (Original) A method as in Claim 1, wherein the frames of visual data are acquired and used to generate an active image in real time.

18.   (Previously presented)   A visual display of a panoramic region, comprising:

an active display comprising a series of active images that are generated from temporally sequential frames of visual data, wherein

each frame of visual data represents an image defining a region within the panoramic region such that at least two of the images define regions that do not coincide; and

each displayed image is positioned on a display screen with respect to the position of other displayed images on the display screen in accordance with the spatial relationship in the panoramic region of the content of the displayed image to the content of the other displayed images; and

a context display comprising one or more context images displayed while an active image is displayed, each context image being at least part of an image represented by a previously displayed frame of the set of temporally sequential frames of visual data, said frame no longer corresponding to an active image such that the context image is displayed as a static image.

19.   (Original)   A visual display as in Claim 18, wherein content of a context image that overlaps content of an earlier-displayed context image replaces the content of the earlier-displayed context image.

20.   (Original)   A visual display as in Claim 18, wherein the set of temporally sequential frames of visual data is obtained by a visual data acquisition device rotatably mounted at a fixed location.

21.   (Original)   A visual display as in Claim 18, wherein all of the images displayed after a first display of a context image are displayed as context images.

22.   (Original)   A visual display as in Claim 18, wherein less than all of the images displayed after a first display of a context image are displayed as context images.

23.   (Currently amended) A system for producing a visual display of a panoramic region from a set of temporally sequential frames of visual data, each frame of visual data representing an image defining a region within the panoramic region such that at least two of the images define regions that do not coincide, the system comprising:

means for displaying a series of active images generated from multiple temporally sequential frames of visual data, such that the series of active images comprise a moving video image of at least those portions of successive frames of visual data that overlap;

means for positioning each displayed image on a display screen with respect to the position of other displayed images on the display screen in accordance with the spatial relationship in the panoramic region of the content of the displayed image to the content of the other displayed images; and

means for displaying one or more context images while said series of active images is displayed, each context image being at least part of an image represented by a previously displayed frame of the set of temporally sequential frames of visual data, said frame no longer corresponding to an active image such that the context image is displayed as a static image;

whereby the one or more context images are displayed statically to provide a context display for the series of active images displayed as a moving video image and an active display including the series of active images.

24.   (Currently amended) A computer readable storage medium on which is stored one or more computer programs for producing a visual display of a panoramic region from a set of temporally sequential frames of visual data, each frame of visual data representing an image defining a region within the panoramic region such that at least two of the images define regions that do not coincide, the one or more computer programs comprising:

instructions for displaying a series of active images generated from multiple temporally sequential frames of visual data, such that the series of active images comprise a moving video image of at least those portions of successive frames of visual data that overlap;

instructions for positioning each displayed image on a display screen with respect to the position of other displayed images on the display screen in accordance with the

spatial relationship in the panoramic region of the content of the displayed image to the content of the other displayed images; and

instructions for displaying one or more context images while said series of active images is displayed, each context image being at least part of an image represented by a previously displayed frame of the set of temporally sequential frames of visual data, said frame no longer corresponding to an active image such that the context image is displayed as a static image;

whereby the one or more context images are displayed statically to provide a context display for the series of active images displayed as a moving video image and an active display including the series of active images.

25.   (Previously presented) A method as in Claim 13, wherein:

the set of frames of visual data in which a branch point is identified is a first set of temporally sequential frames of visual data representing a panoramic region at a first time; and

the new set of frames of visual data is a second set of temporally sequential frames of visual data representing the panoramic region at a second time that is different from the first time.